The Pacific

81st Year | FEBRUARY, 1931 | No. 2

Ministers' Wives Plant a Tree

The Congregational Ministers' Wives met at the Pacific School of Religion on January 20, with the wives of the faculty of the school serving as hostesses. After luncheon in the men's hall, a tree was presented to the school by the members of the Club.

Mrs. George T. Tolson, president of the Club, after reading a letter from Dr. H. F. Swartz, turned the meeting over to Mrs. Harley H. Gill, who was in charge of the program. Miss Martha S. Fisher, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Charles R. Fisher, played two numbers on the harp. Mrs. F. J. Van Horn offered the invocation and Mrs. Mary Maar read a Scripture selection. Mrs. C. S. Nash read sketches from Sidney Lanier's "Sunrise."

Mrs. Martha G. Castor gave an address on the religious significance of trees. After speaking of the various trees mentioned in the Bible, it was found out that an upright and godly man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that the obvious characteristic of a tree is the upward reach, which Abraham recognized when he planted a tree and called upon the name of the Lord. As a tree gains its strength in sending its roots below the surface of things so the soul is strengthened not only by sunshine and moisture, but by the hidden resources which are sometimes found in darkness and difficulty. As the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations, so may the character of young men trained in this school be a blessing to others.

Mrs. H. M. Tenney presented the tree to the school, and Dr. H. F. Evans accepted it. Each member participated in the planting.

A THREE-FOLD LINK

The following is taken from a letter from one of the pensioners of the Congregational Ministers' Relief Society:

I am signing the application blank again. Every year of late I have hoped I would not need to sign it again. Hoped that I would suddenly become rich or be where "they hunger no more neither thirst any more," and some one who needed it more could have the money. It has been an emergency fund and a great blessing. I have often wondered how I would have gotten along without it. It would be hard at my years to practice the rigid economy of Home Missionary years. But the kind hearts of so many of God's children have made it unnecessary. I am so thankful. I only wish my husband could have enjoyed some of these comforts in his last days. He received his first check in the morning, and was so happy for he saw relief ahead. He died that night. He passed away in his sleep. I gave back the check. The Board made it over to me and have continued it. It is a three-fold link, binding me to the past in the memory of the years of service we were privileged to give; binding me to the present by the many generous hearts who are contributing to my needs and comforts, and to the future in the words of Whittier,

"I know I cannot drift
Beyond God's love and care."

A HAPPY STORY

Here is the happy story of the interest of our churches and people in the benevolence program of our state, home and foreign missionary enterprises. To hold our own in a time of financial depression would be encouraging, but to make a gain is nothing short of phenomenal.

In 1929 the total benevolence gifts through our Conference treasury, subject to regular percentage division, was $43,894.94.

In 1930 these gifts amounted to $51,739.34, including $8,049.00 from the Plan of Advance.

This is a gain of $7,844.40.

In 1929 the designated gifts for all boards excluding one bequest and one gift of $1,000.00 to capital funds, was $2,740.00.

In 1930 these gifts amounted to $3,168.00, a gain of about $428.00.

As a result we were able to remit to the American Board $16,236.00 in 1930, a gain of $2,208.00 over 1929.

We were able to remit to the Home Board $10,552.00 in 1930, a gain of $1,887.00 over 1929.

We had for our state work $28,118.00 in 1930, a gain of $4,235.00 over 1929. This means a small surplus in operation for the year 1930, instead of a crippling deficit.

During 1930 we received one bequest of $5,000.00 for Ministerial Relief, and one gift of $500.00 toward Conference capital funds. During 1929 we received one bequest of $1,000.00 for Ministerial Relief and one gift of $1,000.00 toward Conference capital funds, a gain of $3,500.00.

HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

It has been my privilege to attend nine Mid-Winter meetings. Without exception there was more in the meeting that just closed to bring encouragement, than any of the other eight.

First. Because in a year of financial depression, the denomination made a gain of $66,000 over that of 1929. This was far short of the goal of $600,000, but considering the depression it was a great victory. It is a source of satisfaction that about one-eighth of that gain can be attributed to Northern California. More heartening still was the report that some churches were borrowing money to make up their apportionment, because of the importance which they attached to our missionary enterprises. One church in Iowa had sent a check of $900 to the state office, but the bank on which it was drawn closed before the check could be collected. The trustees of the church said that that was their obligation and they borrowed the money to make it good.

The second cause of encouragement is the deepening conviction that we are doing the job, not fully and not perfectly to be sure, but great things for the Cause of Christ are being accomplished. It was thrilling to hear that no worthy aged or disabled minister or minister's widow is denied aid, that no needy church is denied help in its building enterprise, that great progress is being made in eliminating duplication and overlapping in the home missionary field. One superintendent reports that there is not one case in his state where aid goes to an over-churched field unless the local Congregational Church has tried to unite with another church and been refused. Another superintendent reports that if the same rate of progress which has obtained for fifteen years shall continue for eight years more, there will not be one case of competition in any town under five thousand inhabitants, even with self-supporting churches.

The third cause of rejoicing is in the quality of our leadership. Our own Dr. Fred Field Goodsell, executive vice-president of the American Board, revealed himself as a statesman with no cheap and narrow conception of the modern missionary enterprise. "The missionary of the future," says he, "must be catholic, that is, having sympathy for and appreciation of all peoples and religions, approaching them with a desire to learn and to share. He will be community-minded, recognizing that religion of Jesus must improve conditions for every human soul. He must be Christo-centric, whether the missionary enterprises or the church, as we know them, survive or not, Christ must be exalted. The missionary must be flexible, ever alive to changing conditions and ready to adapt himself, becoming all things to all men and times, if by any means he can save some."

The fourth cause of gratitude is the growing recognition that we are all engaged in one enterprise with the same problems, whether local church, state conference, home board or foreign board. To make the world Christian we must make America Christian. To make America Christian we must make the world Christian. "It isn't a question of going out to the world, the world is at our doors. It isn't a question of sharing ourselves, but what kind of a self is it that we have to share." The old time competition between the boards for an additional fraction of a per cent is gone. It is one cause, one faith, one problem, one task, one service, one reward.

Fifth. More encouraging than any of these is the spiritual emphasis which was manifest. The new charter of promotional work is concerned not with goals but with missionary education and Christian fellowship. There is a clear recognition of the difficult times in which we live and of the need of the hour. "It is not," as Dr. Jay T. Stocking, the chaplain, said, "a restatement of belief that we need but a reinstatement in faith. Jesus did not ask us to define him, but to follow him."—HARLEY H. GILL, Supt.

Dr. Gaylord Accepts Call

Rev. E. D. Gaylord, D. D., for ten years the pastor of the Church of the Messiah at Los Angeles, has been elected superintendent of the Southern California Conference and secretary of the Los Angeles Extension Society. Dr. Gaylord brings to his new task a wealth of pastoral experience and an intimate knowledge of the problems of the Conference. He has served as Moderator and President of its Board of Directors, and was a member of the committee charged with administration during Dr. Kenngott's illness. Dr. Gaylord was welcomed to the circle of superintendents at the Mid-Winter Conference, and undertakes the task with a high sense of its opportunities for service.

READING CIRCLE BOOKS

Through the cooperation of the Federation of Congregational Women and the Conference office, a second set of missionary reading books is now being circulated. This set consists of the following titles:

Just Like You.
Wonderland of India.
Child Garden in India.
Mr. Friend O'Man.
Tales from Moslem Lands.
High Adventure.
Masoud, the Bedouin.
Creative Forces in Japan.
Lighted to Lighten (India).
In the Vanguard of a Race.

The churches who have read the set sent to us by the Education Society will surely want to read this set. If these sets are popular with our churches, other sets will be arranged.

PASTORS' LUNCHEON

All pastors of Congregational Churches of our Conference will meet for luncheon at the Hotel Durant Thursday, February 12, during the Pastors' Conference of the Public School of Religion.

CHANGE OF DATE

On account of the proximity of the dates of the National Council at Seattle to those previously adopted for our State Conference, the Board of Directors voted to change the time and place of our annual meeting. It will be held October 20-22, probably at some church in the East Bay district. The Young People's Conference will be held at Asilomar as originally planned.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 10-12—Interdenominational Pastors' Conference. Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.

April 23-26 — Northern California Council of Religious Education. State Convention, Fresno.

June 25-July 2—National Council of Congregational Churches. Seattle, Washington.

July 6-15 — Missionary Education Movement Conference, Asilomar.

July 11-16—International Christian Endeavor Convention. San Francisco.

August 1-8—Congregational Young People's Conference. Asilomar.

October 20-22.—Northern California Congregational Conference. Annual meeting. Place to be announced later.

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SLIDE SERVICE

When the various changes of lectures in depositories has been made, the following list will be the ones in the Pacific Coast offices. It would assist the office in making request for the next change, if our people would look over the list of other slides, and let us know which they would like to have sent to us and which of the present lot we should keep. Only three or four sets out of the ten on deposit are changed at a time, changes taking place about every six months. In this way some sets remain in an office for over a year.

At San Francisco

Black Man in White Man's Africa.
Farm Field and Factory in Japan.
Four Thousand Miles Through Africa.
Glimpses of the Marathi Mission.
The Thrilling Tale of the Philippines.
Under Ceylon's Palms.
The Story of a Religious Adventure.
Climbing Jacob's Ladder (Negro work).
Out Among the Red Men.
Mission Projects. How My Church Does Its World Wide Work.

At Los Angeles

Awakened India.
China's Past and Present.
Beyond the Rio Grande (Mexico).
Madura.
Up the Min to Shaowu.
Voyaging Among the Philippines.
Church Life in the Rockies.
The Life of Abraham Lincoln.
The Paradise of the Pacific.
Training the Indian for State and Kingdom.

At Portland

The American Board in the New Near East.
Beautiful Foochow.
Buddhism.
Tientsin, Where East Meets West.
A New Day in Old Madura.
Mission Projects.

At Seattle

The American Board.
Beautiful Foochow.
Angola, the Country of the King.
English Shrines.
Round About Japan.
The Upward Trail in Shaowu.
From Tent to Temple.
Climbing Jacob's Ladder.
On the Trail of Columbus in Puerto Rico.
The Outreach of My Church.

Rev. L. L. Wirt, D.D., has been invited by the United States Commissioner of Education to introduce the friendship health chest project for Mexico to the schools of the nation. With auto and sample chest Dr. and Mrs. Wirt plan to visit every state in the Union in this cause. Their address will be: 205 Sheldon Building, San Francisco.

GREETING THE UNSEEN

A New Year's Sermon by Rev. Willard B. Thorp, D.D., of Palo Alto

"In everything and in all things
I have learned the secret."
—Philippians 4:12.

Here we are at the beginning of another year. Not one of us can tell what is going to happen to him this year. We know what happened in 1930, but we do not know what is going to happen in 1931. And there is no one who can tell us.

All sorts of things may happen, good or bad. One of these days we are going to die. Our funeral will be held and our estate administered. The places that have known us will know us no more. Others will do the work we are doing and will live in the house that has been our home. It may be that will happen this year; the older we are the more likely it is. We may have to be taken to the hospital for a serious operation. We may have a nervous or mental breakdown. We may be stricken with a long and costly illness that will make life a burden to us and to our dear ones. The fact that we have escaped so far does not prove anything. We may have to pass through some great sorrow. We may lose our little property, or be thrown out of our job and look in vain for another. It happens to others, it may happen to us. These are some of the unpleasant possibilities the new year holds in store.

On the other hand we may be just entering the best year we have ever had, a year in which things "come our way" as we say; a year in which opportunities we have always coveted will present themselves; a year in which the work we are doing will win fuller recognition and appreciation. We may date the beginning of our real success and achievement from the year 1931. All these things are among the possibilities.

And now, having looked these things in the face, in what spirit shall we go forward? We cannot determine what will happen to us, but we can determine that spirit; and that after all is going to make all the difference.

The message I bring to you is suggested by a line of Browning's—"Greet the unseen with a cheer!" The spirit of adventure, the spirit of eager curiosity, the spirit of a strong soul that says, "Bring on what you will, I shall be equal to it!" The spirit of a contender who challenges all comers. The spirit of Paul when he said, "I can do all things in Him that strengtheneth me." The spirit of the Master when he said, "In the world ye have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world, and you too shall overcome it." He who fronts the future in that spirit is invincible. Whatever happens to him, he is going to win. If a difficult situation arises, it will be simply a challenge that puts him on his mettle and calls out all his reserves of skill and grace and power.

The trouble with most of us is that we let ourselves be bowled over too easily. We hold up our hands in defeat at the first setback. We are more conscious of our weakness than we are of our strength. We have listed all our limitations and proven to ourselves by a logical demonstration that we have reached an impasse. Instead of finding out just why we failed and remedying the trouble, we accept that kind of failure as part of our destiny. Just as soon as that particular thing shows its head round a corner, we turn tail and run. When we find ourselves doing that, we have indeed lost our youth and are growing old. Youth is the spirit of adventure, the spirit of confidence, the spirit that says: "What others have done I can do. It is true I can do some things better than I can others, but at a pinch I can do anything that needs to be done. There is no problem the year can bring me but I shall be able to solve it. No matter what comes, I will not give up beaten. There is a way to meet it and get some good out of it, and I will find what that way is and take it."

That is the attitude of a son of God, and if the gospel means anything to us it means that we are sons of God. A son of God means a son of the One who made this world and all things that are in it. If you live as if you were an insect, a worm, a creature, then you have missed the great truth of the gospel of Christ. No matter what the new year may bring, you are sure to be beaten.

Some people think love is the gospel. But love is not the gospel, power is the gospel, divine power, the power of a son of God in you and me. The power of love if you please—that is part of the power of a son of God, but it is only part of it. If we are to have the full power of our religion, we must have a great deal more than love.

Truth is another part of it—the power that comes from looking a fact squarely in the face and seeing just what it is and calling it by its right name, not by some soft, euphemistic, comfortable name but by its right name. The stark realism of our age is part of its divine power—the power that comes from calling a spade a spade and not fooling yourself into thinking it is a bed of roses, the power that comes from seeing the thorns on the rose-bush and knowing how to deal with those thorns. The boy who insists on knowing just how an auto works or a radio or an oil burner, has the beginnings of that kind of power. It is the power of seeing what effects come from certain causes and acting accordingly with precision and certainty. The engineer, the skilled mechanic is at home in machinery. He is not afraid of it; he has mastered it and moves about in the midst of it like a son of God. If he does not happen to know just how a certain thing works, he knows he can find out, for he has mastered the principles of it. Give him a little time and he will emerge master of the situation. Do you mean to tell me there isn't something of a son of God in that?

A son of God is one who is at home in his Father's house. And the part of the Father's house we are now concerned with is this present world. He goes about until he is familiar with all of life, all its experiences and all its forces. And his object is not simply to know them but to master them. He does not shut his eyes to ambulances and hospitals; he knows all about them. He knows what death is, and how it comes, and what can be done about it. He knows what money is and what to do with it—and also how to do without it. He knows how to invest it, and also how to give it away with joy. He isn't afraid of impoverishing himself. Like St. Francis he is able to divest himself of every material possession, and go about living his simple, happy life and not lacking for his daily bread. Some of us are slaves to houses and servants and artificial conveniences, to salaries and investments, to bank accounts and safe deposit boxes. Without them we would be helpless as a fish out of water. Not so the strong man, the son of God. His house may burn, his bank may fail, his stocks may tumble, but he just smiles and goes ahead undaunted. He has "learned the secret, both to abound and to be in want." He is one who having nothing yet possesses the key to all things. The world can never turn him down.

That is what I mean by saying that a son of God is at home in all the rooms of the Father's house. He is not fazed by any of these things. To him they are all part of life, to be taken, as it were, in one's stride. And let it also be said, he is not among those who have let themselves be sidetracked by the whys and wherefores, and all the futile questions that lead only to blind alleys of doubt and perplexity and inaction. He refuses to be "sicklied o'er by the pale cast of thought." He goes steadily ahead, undismayed, undaunted, patient, cheerful, resourceful, managing his own troubles and having strength to spare for some of the troubles of others. This world is his Father's house—that is the clue to which he steadily clings. He cannot prove it by any logic, but he finds it works. It solves more problems than anything else, and it leaves the mind clear and the soul serene.

That is the spirit of the modern Christian—power that rests on knowledge and is the servant of love. It is the spirit of a practical age, and that is one of the best qualities of the age in which we live. It does not waste time in repining over the past, or in romancing over the future, or in delving into the unknowable mysteries that lie behind it all. It goes steadily ahead, making the best of every situation, remedying what can be remedied, bearing what has to be borne, and doing all with dauntless courage, a courage that rests upon a serene faith. It greets the unseen future with a cheer; for that unseen future contains work to be done, problems to be solved, not for self alone but for the world. In everything and in all things he has learned the secret—the secret of a son of God moving about in his Father's world.

"Muhit" Standard

The opportunity for reaching the minds and hearts of the Turks is almost unlimited today in Turkey, for the new alphabet has brought about a tremendous increase in literacy. "Muhit" (meaning new environment) is a monthly magazine. It is edited and controlled by Turks but Rev. J. K. Birge cooperates with the editorial staff and contributes much of the material. In general the magazine corresponds to the "Woman's Home Companion," and therefore the whole Turkish family is interested in it. It sets the standard for a new kind of literature and has secured the largest circulation of any monthly magazine in Turkey. The cheap literature which has flooded in from Europe, France and Germany especially, and which is to be found in almost every bookstore, does not appeal to the better element among the Turks. Therefore "Muhit" with its high quality of material has a great message to give New Turkey.

In addition to his work on "Muhit," Mr. Birge shares with Dr. MacCallum the responsibility for publication in several languages. Bibles, hymn books, tracts, Sunday school literature, stories and text books are issued in Greek and Armenian for scattered refugee communities along the Mediterranean. The main task of the publication department, however, is in the field of Turkish literature. A new translation of the New Testament is being prepared and its first sections have already been issued.

Mr. Birge's work is one of our Northern California projects.

NEWS FROM CHURCHES AND THEIR LEADERS

ANNUAL MEETINGS

OROVILLE.—Rev. W. J. Johnson, for the past fourteen years the pastor, was re-elected for another year.

EUREKA.—Rev. C. H. Hudson was elected to continue his work for the ensuing year. During 1930 the church was painted and a large social hall added, all bills being paid. The morning attendance for the year averaged 165.

SANTA CRUZ.—More than 200 gathered for the annual meeting and supper. A total of 58 had been received into membership during the year, of which 37 came by confession and previous confession. Attendance at the 47 evening motion pictures averaged 687 for the year. Total expenditures of nearly $12,000 were reported, with not a cent of debt outstanding. The pastor, Rev. Heber St. Clair Mahood, found time to make 1400 calls during the year. Over 30 denominations are represented in the membership of the church, which makes a real community church in one of our important cities.

CERES.—The annual meeting was exceptionally good. In spite of very serious financial circumstances in the community, all bills were paid and a splendid showing made on benevolences, although not quite up to former years. Fourteen new members joined during the preceding year and five on the first Sunday of the new year. Rev. H. H. Wolford is the pastor.

ALAMEDA.—Reports show that 13 new members were received, bringing the total membership to 309. The Sunday school enrollment increased by 20 per cent and new members 267. The church has challenged the San Jose church in friendly competition in church attendance for the period from February 1st to Easter Sunday. The church finances showed a balance on hand with considerably larger expenditures than in the year previous. Rev. Gail Cleland is the pastor.

HAYWARD.—The outstanding feature of the annual meeting was the report of the Building Committee, with plans and pictures of the proposed new structure. By unanimous vote the committee was instructed to proceed at once with the program for carrying the project through. The building will cost in the neighborhood of $25,000 and plans are on foot for financing it.

SAN CARLOS.—In spite of a storm, 83 attended the annual meeting and supper. During the year a number of improvements were made, including kitchen equipment, gas heater and assessment for street work. The church has taken steps by which it is hoped that it may be able to ask for a reduced missionary appropriation beginning April.

FAIRFAX.—At the annual meeting Dr. H. F. Swartz was the speaker. The pastor ,Rev. James H. Price, was presented with a fine watch from the congregation, as a token of their esteem. The church has recently accepted a reduction in missionary aid.

OCEAN VIEW. — Superintendent Harley H. Gill was the speaker. A splendid dinner was served by the women of the church. A cabinet plan has been adopted, each organization having a representative. The church hopes to repair and decorate the old gymnasium and make it into a real social hall.

SALIDA.—The annual meeting was attended by double the number of church members. Instead of having services every Sunday evening, one carefully planned program is held each month. A number of improvements were made in the church property, but a social hall is badly needed.

CLOVERDALE.—In spite of the continued illnes of the pastor, Rev. W. H. Youngman, splendid progress was made during the year. In his annual report the pastor gives high praise to Rev. A. P. Orth and Rev. H. S. Davidson for their services during the year.

PARADISE—Although fruit prices were low, the Paradise Church at its annual meeting found that all bills had been paid and the benevolence goal had been reached. Rev. E. P. Shier is the pastor of the church.

The annual business meeting of the San Lorenzo United Church, recently held, revealed an unbroken line of additions. The attendance at morning worship has increased from seven, the first Sunday the pastor preached, to an average of 31 for the year just ended. The Sunday School added one new teacher. The Ladies' Aid reported $251 in receipts. The Misisonary Society added an extra Thank Offering this year to its regular annual offering. And the pastor, Rev. C. E. Robinson, while increasing the church roll by thirty-six, has been awarded two degrees, Th.D. and D.D., since becoming pastor of the church, two years ago.

For the first time within the memory of sixty years, the entire budget of the First Congregational Church of Lodi was subscribed before the annual meeting. Besides this minimum budget, Mrs. P. O. Rinde, church treasurer, surprised the assembly by announcing that they only lacked $70 for the proposed increase of the pastor's salary. The assembly voted the increase.

The meeting opened with a bountiful church supper and social, after which the annual meeting was held and last year's reports were read, new officers elected, various committees appointed and the pastor, Rev. E. T. Sherman, outlined a tentative program of activity and consecration for the coming year.

The attendance at the Hip Wo School has jumped from an average of 167 during the fall months, to 198 in January.

Rev. Robert B. Whitaker, for some years in charge of the Evangelistic department of the American Board Mission at Lintsing, China, formerly at Paradise and Porterville on our own Conference, has been unanimously called to the pastorate of the church at Tulare. He came on the field with his family for regular work February first. Mr. Whitaker has a family of five children, who, with his wife, will be of real help in the work of the church.

Rev. Olaf Torvik, who has just closed a very successful pastorate, plans to spend some months visiting his old home in Europe.

Rev. Charles F. Clarke, who recently resigned from the Olivet Church of Oakland, has accepted a call as pastor of the Beaverton Church, near Portland, Oregon. He will close his work at Olivet and open his new work the middle of February. He carries with him not only the affection of the Olivet people, but the high esteem and gratitude of his fellow ministers. Northern California regrets seeing Mr. Clarke leave. Oregon will have a strong addition to its forces.

Pastoral work is one of the secrets of the success of Pilgrim Church. During January Rev. C. H. Cleaves made 198 visits. About 100 persons were present at the annual meeting and reports indicate that the outlook for 1931 is very encouraging.

Rev. Robert J. Allen, our pastor in Trinity County, was taken suddenly ill, rushed to the Woodland Clinic, where an operation took place during January. He is reported as being back on the field the first of February.

Rev. Arthur B. Roberts, for five years pastor of the Norwalk Congregational Church, has accepted a call to the Bethany Rawson Church of Los Angeles, to begin February 1st. Rev. Thomas L. Dyer, who has been pastor of the Rawson Church, goes to Norwalk. Thus fair exchange is no robbery.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MISSIONS?

Due to the Plan of Advance, the Northern California Congregational Conference will probably show an increase of benevolences for 1930 over that of 1929. Nevertheless in common with other denominations, we must face the fact that on the whole there has been a decrease in missionary interest and giving.

The best statement of reasons that we have seen was presented by Dr. Charles C. Merrill, secretary of promotion for the Commission on Missions, to the Committee on Strategy at a recent date. This statement may be thus summarized:

Four reasons at least may be given as contributing to the decrease in interest and in giving which has apparently overtaken our churches during recent years. (1) That the older givers have died and their children are not taking their places. (2) A great decrease in church attendance the country over makes impossible the giving of missionary information and the rousing of missionary interest as used to be the case. (3) In recent years there has been a great development of expensive church plants. Debts for these plants have been incurred. Interest on these debts must be paid; the principal must be paid year by year; and in order to maintain the plants there must be a considerable addition to the church budget and to the church staff. (Apparently this development has in some degree been slowed down as is evidenced by the fact that in three years there has been a decrease in Home expenses reported in the Year Book of $582,648 or 2.64 per cent. During the same period the amount of decrease for the apportionment was $246,657 or 7.81 per cent.) (4) Undoubtedly our change in form of organization has had its effect. Perhaps some contributions have been directly lost in the giving up of the women's organizations.

However, none of these factors has been the chief factor nor have all of them together been the chief factor. The main cause for the decrease of interest and decrease of contributions lies in the fundamental religious situation in our churches. The simple fact is that a missionary urge does not exist among us as it once did. We are not so keen to share Christ with other men and other nations because we are not so sure of our own possession of Him. The main problem is one that lies perhaps more in the realm of the Commission on Evangelism than the Commission on Missions, if it does not indeed lie in the realm of our whole denominational leadership so far as a change can be effected through that leadership. If we are really keen to get to the root of the matter we must face with entire frankness the question whether in some real degree the tendency of our denominational life is not toward a view of Christianity which has no real place for missions.

Special Sunday evening services for February have been planned by Rev. Norman W. Pendleton of the Grace-Trinity Center United Church. On February 1st, President A. J. Muste of the Labor College of New York spoke on "Labor, Education and Justice." On February 8th, Mrs. Rheba Crawford Splivalo, newly appointed Director of Social Welfare for the State of California, will speak. On February 15th, at a young people's rally, Mr. Pendleton will speak on "Knocking the Imp Out of Impossible," and on February 22nd Rev. F. W. Beidler, Dean of Lincoln University, will give an address on Washington. Mr. Pendleton recently took advantage of his radio broadcasting service to speak at a Sunday morning service on "The Amazing Success of Prohibition."

Rev. James W. Price, acting pastor at Guerneville, has started a midweek Bible class, sponsored by the Fellowship of Youth. The columns of the local newspaper are open to the pastor, who uses them very freely for announcements and for messages intended to create an interest in the religious life. The church is just now engaged in a canvass to raise funds in the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Price can be persuaded to remain.

The Alameda and San Jose churches have entered a ten weeks' attendance contest that began February 1, and will conclude on Easter Sunday. The two congregations have organized by dividing their membership into teams, and the results were apparent in the interest the first Sunday of the contest. Alameda was slightly ahead at the start. Rev. Gail Cleland and Rev. Benjamin Gould are the pastors of the contesting churches.

The First Congregational Church of San Francisco continues to be very fortunate in the matter of pulpit supplies. On February 1st, Dr. Charles F. Aked greeted a church crowded to the doors at both services. Rev. Lawrence A. Wilson of Sacramento will be in the pulpit on Sunday, February 8th, and Rev. Francis J. VanHorn D.D., of the First Church, Oakland, will preach on Sunday, February 15th.

The Pacific Grove Church has renovated and modernized the parsonage at a cost of $800. Some improvements have been made in the church building and an acousticon has been installed. Rev. John Hunter, the new pastor, is at work on the field, and the church is very much encouraged.

On February 8th the Bay Point Church will take in eight new members, which will bring the total membership to twenty-seven. This is exactly twenty more than at the time the pastor, Mr. Donald F. Gaylord, undertook the work a year ago.

Although losing one week through illness, Rev. John T. Munton of Calaveras County preached thirteen times, attended three prayer meetings and made thirty-seven pastoral visits during the month of January.

Rev. Lawrence Wilson, pastor of our church at Sacramento, was elected chaplain of the Assembly. The Sacramento church made a full 20 per cent gain in missionary giving over the year 1929.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Federation, held at North Church, Berkeley, January 29-30, was a splendid gathering. A large attendance, inspiring addresses, excellent reports and a gracious spirit of hospitality of the women of North Church all conspired to make it so. There were representatives from over 40 churches, the most distant being Paradise.

The theme of the program was "Debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians." Dr. Gill told us of the finances of our Conference, and then reported on the Mid-Winter Meeting. Mrs. James T. Richards of Saratoga brought to us very well painted pictures of some of the places she visited, emphasizing the problems of the mission fields. Dr. White of Stockton pointed out some of the true values of other religions, and left us thinking of what religion might be evolved out of this upset state of religions. Mr. Caughey pictured the real American of New Mexico, one to whom we owe much. Mr. Goto, a student of Pacific School of Religion, told us of Japan's contribution to civilization, and Miss Lucille Day, in her interesting way, told us something of the Student Volunteer Movement.

The annual election took place and below are the officers elected for 1931:

Officers for 1931

President—Mrs. Charles T. Tinker, Oakland.

First Vice-president — Mrs. H. M. Smitten, Berkeley.

Second Vice-president——Mrs. Dennis Goodsell, Berkeley.

Third Vice-president—Mrs. C. A. Kofoid, Berkeley.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Harry L. Holcomb, Oakland.

Treasurer—Mrs. W. W. Furze, Piedmont.

Auditor—Mrs. J. A. Bradshaw, Oakland.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. W. D. Byram, San Francisco.

Field Secretaries — Foreign: Mrs. Herman F. Swartz, Berkeley; Home: Miss Helen M. Perkins, Berkeley.

Social Welfare Secretary—Mrs. W. G. Lenfestey, Berkeley.

Assistant—Mrs. Fred F. T. Watson, Oakland.

Young People's Secretary — Mrs. James H. Price, Fairfax.

Thank Offering Secretary— Mrs. Helen G. Byrne, Santa Cruz.

Education and Literature Secretary —Mrs. Gail Cleland, Alameda.

Secretary of Prayer Guild — Mrs. Francis J. Van Horn, Oakland.

Associational Presidents—

Central—Mrs. Raymond Fuller, Stockton.
East Bay—Mrs. Robert G. Arlett, Oakland.
Humboldt—Mrs. C. H. Hudson, Eureka.
Modoc—Mrs. Horton Colbert, Alturas.
Sacramento — Mrs. W. H. Childers, Sacramento.
San Joaquin—Mrs. Norman Henderson, Fresno.
Santa Clara—Mrs. James T. Richards, Saratoga.
Sonoma—Mrs. George Atkinson, Sebastopol.
Upper Bay—Mrs. LaVeta Byerrum, Benicia.
West Bay—Mrs. E. C. Peck, So. San Francisco.

Standing Committees

NOMINATING—
Mrs. H. T. Helfer, Oakland.
Mrs. James Hazlett, Palo Alto.
Mrs. Ira J. Condit, Berkeley.

PROGRAM—
Mrs. W. W. Ferrier, Berkeley.
Mrs. H. F. Swartz, Berkeley.
Mrs. R. E. Gilson, Oakland.
Mrs. Ira J. Condit, Berkeley.

FINANCE—
Mrs. Omer Denny, Berkeley.
Mrs. W. W. Furze, Piedmont.
Mrs. H. H. Gill, Berkeley.

PRINTING—
Mrs. H. A. Davenport, Berkeley.
Mrs. J. B. Orr, Oakland.
Mrs. B. P. Martin, Berkeley.

SOCIAL RELATIONS—
Mrs. Miles Fisher, Berkeley.
Mrs. E. B. Mead, Berkeley.
Mrs. F. F. T. Watson, Berkeley.
Mrs. Norman W. Pendleton, San Francisco.

PUBLICITY—
Mrs. T. E. Borden, Alameda.
Mrs. James Hazlett, Palo Alto.
Mrs. C. J. Hawkins, Berkeley.
Mrs. Birdie A. Dorland, Stockton.

HOSPITALITY—
Mrs. E. V. Krick, San Francisco.
Miss Gertrude Barker, Berkeley.
Mrs. A. L. Hart, San Francisco.
Mrs. Robert Kirkwood, Palo Alto.
Mrs. Wm. Rader, San Francisco.
Miss Henrietta Brewer, Oakland.
Miss Walker, San Francisco.

CANDIDATE—
Mrs. E. Howard May, Berkeley.
Mrs. M. G. Castor, Berkeley.
Mrs. F. E. Haswell, Oakland.

COURTESY—
Mrs. Ralph T. Fisher, Oakland.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU—
Mrs. Chas. C. Harmon, Oakland.

Report of Thank Offering Secretary

Thirty-eight responses to the 64 Thank Offering letters sent out this year. Four of these, however, were letters explaining why they could have no Thank Offering this year. I was glad to have these letters because they came from organizations not heard from before, and show that an interest has been aroused. The entire amount of money collected for Thank Offerings is $1448.57; about $100 more than last year. But some $400 of that amount has been put on church benevolences, so receives no credit as a real Thank Offering. It may have been given with just as thankful hearts, but when applied to church apportionment is not accredited as Thank Offering.

My wish for the coming year is that we will try and have our Thank Offering separate from any other fund. Let us all use the little boxes, and make our using them a spiritual exercise. Every day there is given to us something for which to be thankful. Let's "say it" with a coin, however small. I wish each woman's organization might appoint a Thank Offering chairman, who would interest her society in this important branch of our work.

MRS. HELEN G. BYRNE.

Thomas Edison, in a statement in the Union Signal said: "Prohibition Enforcement is at least 60 per cent and is gaining, notwithstanding the false impression through false propaganda."

During the mid-winter meetings at Evanston, Superintendent Harley H. Gill represented the self-supporting states and their work in an address to the Commission on Missions. Later in the session he was elected president of Superintendents' organization for the ensuing year.

PACIFIC SCHOOL of RELIGION
PREPARES for the RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS
BERKELEY CALIFORNIA

BEER AND THE PRICE OF BARLEY

The wets woo the farmers by blaming prohibition for the low price of grain. They claim that beer would raise the price of barley.

The Chicago Tribune, on November 2, 1930, published an editorial, "Pity The Canadian Farmer," which said in part:

"October barley in Winnipeg sold the other day at less than 26 cents per bushel. * * * From that price the farmer had to subtract the cost of transporting the grain from his farm to market. No one will pretend that prices in this country are satisfactory, but they must arouse the envy of Canadian farmers."

Canada has breweries; the United States has not.

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Twelfth Year

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finds "The Fellowship of Prayer" helpful. Circulation of its daily Lenten devotions last year in booklets, periodicals and newspapers was eight million.

The "Beautiful Book" of St. Luke's gospel has suggested the meditations and prayers for the Lenten season of '31.

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WE BEG YOUR PARDON

WE DID NOT OFFER ENOUGH

In our last issue—
We announced—
The plan of conditional gifts—
Whereby you can enjoy—
A larger income—
From your money—
During life—
Than you can receive—
From ordinary investments—
And have the satisfaction—
Of knowing—
That you are making—
A generous gift—
To Christian work—
In California—
When you are through.

But we made a mistake. If you are 71 years old you will receive 7.2% instead of 7.1%, and if you are 79 or older you will receive 9% instead of 8%.

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San Francisco